

USING THE PATRICIA GALLAGHER NOMINATED BOOKS WITH OLDER STUDENTS

Ideas and Activities created by Karen Antikajian

1. Before reading the books to older students, give them a framework for listening to and evaluating the books. Tell them that they are working for a small company that is well known for publishing high-quality children's books. The company has just received manuscripts for six new picture books for possible publication. The problem is that they can only afford to publish one at this time. Your job is to decide which one to publish. You must:
 - a. Evaluate the text and illustrations of each of these books. Does the story read well and will it hold a child's interest? Do the illustrations support and enhance the text? What are the strong points of each book? What are the possible weak points of each book?
 - b. After you have made your selection, write an acceptance letter to the author and illustrator of the book you have chosen.
 - c. After you have made your selection, write courteous rejection letters to the authors and illustrators of the books you have not chosen.(Students may do all or just one of these activities)
2. Have students compare the style of one author with another. How do the authors' styles fit the type and content of the book. Would the other style work as well or would it be incompatible?
3. Have the students design some extension activities to be used with one or more of the books.
4. Have the students write a Readers Theater script for one or more of the books.
5. Have the students write a rap, poem, or song that is related to one or more of the books.
6. Have the students write a letter to one of the authors or illustrators telling them what they especially like or admire about either the text or the illustrations in their book. They can mention how they might use this book with young students or the parts they might especially like to read aloud or the illustrations they would like to share with youngsters.
7. Have older students see if they can write another version of one of the stories such as *I Stink*, *Mañana*, *Iguana* or *The Princess and the Pizza*.
8. See if any students want to write a poetic tale about an animal in the style of *Billywise*.
9. Have students write a letter to you about an incident in class in the style of *First Year Letters*. The letter should just refer to the incident instead of explaining it in detail since both of you are familiar with it. They can give their thoughts and feelings about the incident or what might have happened if things had gone differently.
10. Have students take one of the themes, such as garbage, trucks, iguanas, etc. and write an informational piece about it.
11. Have the students give their views about bullying and how it can be prevented. (See ideas listed on the *Three Samurai Cats* activity pages.)